

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7562

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8472

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL PFOR KS

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF SIMULTANEOUS RELAY OF VOICE OF AMERICA
KOREAN LANGUAGE BROADCAST

REFS: A. PHNOM PENH 16518

B. STATE 273948 (NOT SENT PHNOM PENH)

1. WITH DECISION TO DISCONTINUE VOA RELAY BY DA TRANSMITTER
IN ROK AND WITH SHUTDOWN OF 24TH PSYOPS DETACHMENT, TWO
DA FORMER VUNC TRANSMITTERS NOW BECOME AVAILABLE FOR SOME
OTHER USE: ONE A 50 KW MEDIUM WAVE ON KANGWHADO; THE OTHER
A 10 KW MEDIUM WAVE AT CHORWON. WE PRESENTLY SEE TWO
SPECIFIC OPTIONS FOR DISPOSING OF THIS EQUIPMENT:

(1) TURNING IT OVER AS IS AT NO COST TO OURSELVES TO
ROK; (2) DISMANTLING IT OURSELVES AND PACKING IT FOR
SHIPMENT TO PHNOM PENH; THESE ARE DISCUSSED BELOW.
IN ADDITION WASHINGTR AGENCIES OR CINCPAC MAY BE AWARE
OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES, BUT WE ASSUME THESE WOULD BE
LIMITED IN VIEW OF HIGH DISMANTLING COSTS AND CONSIDERABLE
AGE OF EQUIPMENT.

2. OPTION 1: OUR PREFERRED OPTION WOULD BE FOR
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DISMANTLING OF TRANSMITTERS AND SHIPMENT TO PHNOM PENH.

FROM EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW THIS WOULD BE EASIEST WAY TO AVOID POTENTIAL JAMMING PROBLEM DISCUSSED BELOW. ON OTHER HAND COST EFFECTIVENESS IS QUESTIONABLE SINCE BOTH TRANSMITTERS ARE 13 YEARS OLD, AND THE PRICE TAG FOR DISMANTLING WILL BE STEEP. US MILITARY HERE DOES NOT HAVE CAPABILITY ITSELF OF FULLY DISMANTLING EITHER TRANSMITTER ESPECIALLY ANTENNAS, AND WE WOULD HAVE TO CONTACT WITH CIVILIAN TEAM TO DO THIS. COST COULD RUN BETWEEN \$25,000 TO \$35,000 PLUS PACKING AND SHIPPING.

3. FOR PHNOM PENH. 50 KW TRANSMITTER IS GENERAL ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL MODEL STANDARD AM BROADCAST WITH DIRECTIONAL ARRAY, COUPLING EQUIPMENT AND ASSEMBLY EQUIPMENT ANTENNAS. 9000 VOLTS. FIXED AS OPPOSED TO PORTABLE. ORIGINALLY PURCHASED APPROXIMATELY 1961. 10 KW IS ARMY MODEL DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: TRANSMITTER, RADIO, AM, BC-10H WITH COMPONENTS. 900 VOLTS. ALTHOUGH NOW FIXED IT CAN BE VAN-MOUNTED. ANTENNA MAST AB 127. PURCHASED 1961. ALSO 500-600 VARIOUS SPARE AND REPLACEMENT PARTS COMPATIBLE WITH THIS TYPE OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE.

4. OPTION 2: ROK ARMY (ROKA) REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BECOME AWARE OF POSSIBILITY VOA RELAY MIGHT BE ENDED AND HAVE INFORMALLY APPROACHED FORMER 24TH PSYOPS DETACHMENT COMMANDER WITH REQUEST THAT TRANSMITTERS BE TURNED OVER TO THEM IN SOME FASHION. ROK CIA REPS HAVE ALSO INFORMALLY ASKED THAT 50 KW ON KANGWHADO BE TURNED OVER TO THEM IN PLACE FOR USE IN JAMMING NORTH KOREAN BROADCASTS TO SOUTH. FORMER 24TH PSYOPS OFFICER HAS NOT RESPONDED TO EITHER REQUEST.

5. SINCE WE ASSUME USG WOULD NOT WISH TO BECOME PARTY TO AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD TRANSFER US EQUIPMENT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR JAMMING PURPOSES THE TRANSFER OF BOTH TRANSMITTERS TO ROKA RATHER THAN ROK CIA IS CLEARLY PREFERABLE. THIS SOLUTION WOULD ALSO HAVE ADVANTAGE OF AVOIDING DISMANTLING COSTS WHICH WE BELIEVE ROKA WILL BE PREPARED TO PICK UP.

6. DISADVANTAGE TO TURNOVER TO ROK ARMY IS THAT ROKS AS SELL AS ROK CIA MIGHT DECIDE TO USE TRANSMITTERS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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JAMMING. NORTH KOREANS ARE BUILDING LARGE 1500 KW BROADCAST TRANSMITTER AND WE KNOW ROKS ARE GREATLY CONCERNED BY THIS. WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CIRCUMVENT PROBLEM THROUGH TRANSFER AGREEMENT IN WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES STATED AN UNDERSTANDING THAT TRANSMITTERS WILL BE USED FOR THE DIRECT BROADCAST OF PROGRAM MATERIAL AS A PART OF ROKA TROOP INFORMATION PROGRAM.

7. REQUEST PHNOM PENH'S VIEWS ON FEASIBILITY OF TRANSFER TO
PHNOM PENH AND DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.
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